GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2823
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2006
OPIUM CULTIVATION
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of hectares of land in the Kashmir Valley have been brought under illicit opium cultivation under the patronage of terror groups as reported in `Times of India` dated 9.6.2006

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the steps taken by Narcotics Control Bureau to destroy such crop; and

(d) the other steps taken by Government to stop illicit opium cultivation in Valley of J&K future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) & (b) : Information available with the Government do indicate illicit cultivation of opium poppy plants in a few places in the Anatnag and Pulwama Districts of Jammu and Kashmir. There is, however, no report to suggest that the cultivation of poppy plants is on a large scale or that it is under the patronage of terror groups.

(c) & (d): The Narcotics Control Bureau conducts operations periodically for the destruction of illicit cultivation of poppy plants in coordination with agencies like Customs and Central Excise, State Police and Revenue authorities. Further, the Chairman of State Level Apex Committee on drug issues constituted by the Jammu and Kashmir Government has given directions to the State Excise Department, concerned Police and Divisional level Anti-Narcotics Task Force to take necessary preventive measures in coordination with various other departments of the State Government and Narcotic Control Bureau to stop the illegal cultivation/growth of poppy plants in the State.